Tristan Davis

From: Tristan Davis on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:37 AM
To: Jorge Fernandez
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: DOCKET NO. 20260026-GU, July 2026

Good Morning,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 2026026, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

Thank you!

Tristan Davis
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6121

From: Jorge Fernandez <jor27ge@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:28 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Jorge Fernandez <jor27ge@cfl.rr.com>
Subject: DOCKET NO. 20260026-GU, July 2026

Dear Commission Clerk,

Below are my comments regarding Docket NO. 20260026-GU:

DOCKET NO. 20260026 – GU

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1-SENTENCE REPLY: I do **NOT** agree with Chesapeake's proposed rate increase. Details below.

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My name is Jorge Fernandez. I live at 1870 Hammock Estate Lane, Melbourne, Florida, 32934. I have background and/or degrees in physics, mathematics, statistics, philosophy and business. My email address is jor27ge@cfl.rr.com. Phone number (land line) is 321-259-4761.

I've been at my present address for the past 27 years. Same two people (wife and I), pretty much the same consumption of gas, water and electricity - nothing added, nothing taken away. All we did was replace our gas water heater with a newer, more efficient unit in July 2022.

As a freedom-loving American, I want free-market Capitalism. A business provides products and/or services, and people freely choose to participate. It is clear, accepted and good for the country and everyone that businesses make profits – everyone wins.

For many years our monthly gas bills ranged from the high 20 dollars to the high 30 dollars. Today we're at high 50 dollars. With the proposed rate increase we'll be in the mid-70 dollars.

When Chesapeake acquired FCG, I knew that this was going to change – not in a good way.

All businesses want to make money – in fact, they have to if they are to survive and prosper. Some businesses, however, don't just want to make profits, they want to make a *financial killing*, customers be damned. While most businesses are content with a 20% to 30% yearly net profit, some, like Chesapeake, want more profit – far more. Again, customers be damned.

I keep all my monthly household expense numbers. When Chesapeake acquired FCG in 2023, I told people in my social circles to watch as our gas bill would soar in a short time. A few believed me, but most said that I was being paranoid, *"things will be pretty much as always"*.

Well, I have all my monthly numbers since January of 2023. Those numbers tell a clear story.

First, and oddly, our consumption numbers (i.e., "therms consumed") have increased from 12.01 therms per month for all of 2023; 13.19 therms per month for all of 2024 (9.8% increase over 2023); 14.13 therms per month for all of 2025 (7.1% increase over 2024); and (projected) 15.27 therms per month for all of 2026 (8.1% increase over 2025 at the present rate of

"consumption"). This means that my wife and I are now "consuming" 27.1% *more* gas (i.e., 27.1% more therms per month) than before Chesapeake took over. Huh? Head scratcher.

What makes those numbers very "odd" is that, as stated at the start, my wife and I have been alone, same consumption habits, same everything *EXCEPT* the fact that Chesapeake took over. So, how can we be consuming over **27% more** gas per month? That's not insignificant.

But wait, there's more. Let's consider the price per therm.

In May 2023, FCG began charging $19.00 per month for the basic service charge, instead of $15.00 per month that they had been charging for many years before that. Chesapeake kept that same basic service charge, but that doesn't matter because I subtracted the basic charge from my bills so as to get the price per therm *without* the basic service charge. What follows are the factual numbers from my monthly bills:

Average monthly price per therm for all of 2023 (essentially before Chesapeake): \$1.52/therm. For all of 2024: \$1.58/therm. For all of 2025: \$1.95/therm. For all of 2026 (to date): \$2.63/therm. After adding Chesapeake's 24.29% proposed increase for 2026: \$3.26/therm.

Thus, less than 3 years after Chesapeake took over FCG, we will be at \$3.26 per therm with the proposed rate increases. That would exceed a *two-hundred and fourteen percent* (214.4% to be exact) increase in the cost per therm in less than 3 years.

Keep in mind that our government has been telling us that the inflation rate has been between 2% and 4% per year. Using the high number, Chesapeake should have increased rates by 12% in 3 years. Let's double that to 24%; let's triple it to 36%. Chesapeake has increased by **214%** !!

I had predicted soaring gas prices after Chesapeake - the numbers now confirm my prediction.

Rate increases are certainly justifiable to a certain extent. For example, inflation is a real factor, and is reflected in the prices of goods and services. Are Chesapeake's increases fully justifiable? Based on government published inflation numbers, "NO, it's not!" – this should be looked into.

However, in my particular case there's also the mystery of a **27%** increase in gas *consumption* when absolutely no relevant factor in our home can account for an increase of that magnitude.

A formal, comprehensive investigation appears to be in order. If other FCG (Chesapeake) customers have also suddenly experienced "significantly more gas consumption" for no reason, then it may be necessary to seek answers towards a full explanation for those observations.

By the way, I contacted FCG by phone several months back to express my concerns about the mysterious increase in gas usage. Other than hand-waving explanations that dismissed the numbers I provided, nothing came of my attempts to get to the bottom of that increase. I've not heard back from FCG/Chesapeake. The analysis presented here is based on actual numbers from FCG's monthly gas bills to me. In any case, I will continue monitoring and documenting my present situation closely.

In summary, when Chesapeake shows up at a new location, prices tend to go up *a lot and fast*.

I do <u>**not**</u> approve of their proposed price increases.

I'm sure that they will employ all kinds of legalese and economic rhetoric to justify their proposed increases. I wouldn't buy any of it without a thorough, independent verification of the facts and arguments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jorge Fernandez

July 27, 2026

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